

Was a Fast and Furious Fight

In Which Supremacy Passed From Jack Root, the World's Hitherto Unbeaten Middleweight and Light Heavyweight, To George Gardner the Challenger, Who Demonstrated His Superior Ability From Start to Finish.

Under the name of a "boxing contest for points" there was fought in Salt Lake last night what proved to be one of the fastest and fiercest fights that the pugilistic arena has witnessed in recent years, and when it was over and while the vanquished lay helpless and bleeding in the ring and while his doubtful and triumphant opponent stood bending above his prostrate form the referee announced what the multitude already knew—that Jack Root, the world's hitherto unbeaten middleweight and light heavyweight champion, had been forced to lower his colors to George Gardner, the challenger.

It was a battle of giants from the first round to the seventeenth and last, when the end came by the delivery of a terrific right hand solar plexus punch that caused the defender of the double title to reel backward, wriggle about and fall to the floor as thoroughly whipped as any man in a similar role ever was. He had made the fight of his life and lost to a younger and better man. They were evenly matched but the experienced observer, the prize ring expert knew from the beginning that Gardner was proving himself not only the cleverer of the two, but that he was also the aggressor. He had been told by Gregains, his manager, that that must be his course, and he followed it as closely as his determination in that direction would permit him, and that was to the very line. Gregains had met Root himself and had gone down and out in the seventh round and knew something of his methods. When his old antagonist fell it was perhaps the happiest man in the great Salt Palace saucer which held it, is said, about 5,000 men and seven or eight women who, taking the ground that they could go and should be permitted to go wherever a man went, bought tickets and witnessed the spectacle in all of its gory ferocity. More than that they enjoyed it and declared that never again would they blame "sicked man" for the possession of a prize fight weakness.

The fighters were in the very pink of condition. They had met before and Root had got the decision on a foul. It was said to have been Gardner's fight nevertheless, a fact that has made bad blood between them, the latter being sore over what he termed an unjust decision and the former smarting under the charge that it was not fair. So when they met last night they were sworn enemies who each had an old grudge to work off. It is stated that they tipped the beam at precisely 165 pounds each—that there was not an ounce difference in their weights. Perhaps this was true but Root certainly looked the heavier man.

The fight was refereed by Harry Hynds, himself an old ring master of more or less note. No battle fought in Utah ever gave a referee so much work. Scores of times he was compelled to tear the men apart and tell them to break away. Once or twice he narrowly escaped being hit and hit hard. The constant clinching was due in very large measure to Root throwing himself upon Gardner to avoid the terrific punishment that he was getting on the body, nearly always in the same place—the left ribs. That he did not go down to defeat long before the inevitable result proved that he was a veritable glutton when it comes to receiving punishment. In the clinches there was much fouling, and both fighters indulged in this. But as there were no flagrant violations in this regard the referee did nothing more than to caution the men against such tactics. The fight by rounds follows:

ROUND ONE. From the top of the gong, Gardner started after Root. He did not appear to be confident at first, but his progress, Root was smiling and confident. Gardner missed a left jabbing for the jaw but landed right to body, which Root countered with right to jaw and a short arm body blow. The men sparred, each trying to draw the other out. Gardner shot right to body, Root replying with left to face. The blows were not hard and little damage was done to either man. Gardner landed hard right to body but received a scraping on the jaw in return. Root got right to wind and light right to jaw, getting a hard punch in the ribs as the gong sounded. Gardner had the better of the round, and it was evident that his tactics were to play for Root's wind.

ROUND TWO. Root missed left lead for the face and Gardner countered with another of his punishing rights to body. Gardner missed two swings for head but landed twice with right on body and left to nose. Root returned the compliment with left to nose and right to body. Root planted left to face and Gardner got right to body again. The same blows were repeated when Root landed an undamaging right hook to jaw.

ROUND THREE. Root placed left to nose, and Gardner missed hard right to the nose and it a moment later on the kidneys, followed by stiff left to Root's stomach and a light left swing to nose. Gardner now became decidedly aggressive and rushed Root across the ring, landing left and right to kidneys. They exchanged body blows when Root shot left and right to face without doing any damage. Some hard in-fighting followed and at the end Root landed left to nose.

ROUND FOUR. Gardner rushed Root to the ropes, putting two hard rights to the nose and on Root's ribs and a left and right to face. Root tried desperately to stave him off and managed to place a left to wind and left to nose, followed by another hard blow across the forehead. Light rights and lefts to body and neck were exchanged and in the breakaway Root fell to the floor and Gardner missed a vicious left swing for the jaw. Root then got right to Gardner's jaw, the latter countering with right to ribs and left to jaw, doing no harm. The coast man planted another right to ribs and left to jaw and a hard right to face. Gardner rushed the Chicago lad around the ring and landed a left and hard right to jaw as the gong sounded. This was clearly Gardner's round.

ROUND FIVE. Gardner rushed again, landing right and left full tilt into Root's wind, twice on his nose and twice on his face, a heavy right in his stomach for his pains. An exchange of lefts to face was followed by Gardner landing right to ribs on the spot where the blood began to show. At the end of the round Root shot hard left to Gardner's nose and the latter was bleeding freely as he went to his corner. Root was also bleeding at the nose.

ROUND SIX. Root took the initiative and sent a left jab to Gardner's nose but received another hard right jab in the ribs. Root shot their faces and bodies and missed right for jaw, Gardner countering with light left to face and a hard right upper cut. Both missed hard right swings, Root got left to nose and Gardner another hard right to body.

ROUND SEVEN. In this round the blood began to flow very freely. Both men came up remarkably fresh. Gardner swung hard left and right, Gardner's eyes and both blows. They exchanged right to eye. Root got the punch over his right eye, and Gardner got his over the left. The blood started in a second and Gardner's second eye and body began to swell two hard rights to Gardner's body blows. Gardner put hard right to Root's ribs and rushed him around the ring, landing right in his stomach. Root put two light lefts to Gardner's face as they went to their corners.

ROUND EIGHT. The round started out with an exchange of hard rights to ribs. Gardner began playing for Root's sore eye, which the latter's seconds were sadly neglecting, and from which the blood flowed in a steady stream. Gardner smashed right to ribs and Root put left to Gardner's ear. Gardner shot left to Root's eye and upper cut him hard with his right. Gardner had much the best of this round, and it now began to look all Gardner as the terrific body blows he landed, repeatedly on Root's sore ribs distressed his opponent in great degree.

ROUND NINE. It started out with an exchange of light lefts to face. Root sent two lefts to Gardner's mouth and the latter shook the champion with a hard left to the bleeding eye, followed by stinging left and right to jaw. Root began to grow weak but managed to get in right hook to Gardner's sore eye. In the clinch Root left an opening and Gardner used a fierce upper cut. Root was plainly in bad shape when he went to his corner.

ROUND TEN. Gardner rushed like a mad bull, landing hard right to Root's ribs almost lifting him off the floor. The champion clinched to save himself. Root landed right to jaw and left to nose but they were weak. Gardner sends light left to face and hard right to ribs. Root grew weak rapidly and was tired long before the signal came. Gardner tried for a knockout and hammered Root around the ring with lefts to face, right to body, and left and right to jaw twice, finishing with a hard left to head.

ROUND ELEVEN. They came together in an exchange of light lefts to face. Root missed hard left for jaw and Gardner landed on neck and body with left and right. Root put left to face but missed left and right swings for ribs. Gardner put two lefts and rights to jaw and body. This was the tamest round of the fight. Both men were tired and cautious and tried to rest up.

ROUND TWELVE. Before the round opened, Lou Houseman, manager, rushed around to Root, whom he was backing, and the two engaged in earnest conversation. When the signal came the contestants fell into a clinch. Root missed a right swing and then exchanged body blows with Gardner. Root cleverly blocked left for jaw, but not hard right on ribs. Root put two lefts to face and then missed a left swing. Gardner put right to body and left to head.

ROUND THIRTEEN. Root led with left, which fell short, and the two clinched. Root put left to face, and Gardner countered with a right to ribs, followed by a vicious right uppercut to wind. Root put right to eye and got a left smash on the face in return. Root put right to jaw and left to body falling into a clinch. Root missed left and right for jaw and Gardner put hard right to ribs again. As the gong sounded Gardner shot hard right uppercut to Root's chin, but they were in such a clinch as Root's teeth came together. The blow was probably the turning point in the battle, or rather the deciding one, as Root was marked now from then on.

ROUND FOURTEENTH. Root missed right uppercut, but Gardner put two lefts to body and a light left to face. Gardner put right to jaw and Gardner played for a right uppercut but the blow fell short. Root seemed to freshen up a little and put a left and two rights to jaw, but they were in such a clinch that Gardner put hard right to Root's wind at gong.

ROUND FIFTEEN. Root led with left to face and Gardner missed left but landed right to body. Root missed an uppercut and Gardner got in another hard right to the sore ribs. Gardner forced a clinch and landed a most terrific right to Root's ribs, the blow fairly lifting him off his feet. Root tried feebly to hold his opponent off but George put hard uppercut with right to face. Root landed light left to face, Gardner countering with right hook to jaw that put Root to the canvass. The gong is all that saved the champion in this round.

ROUND SIXTEEN. Gardner had Root completely at his mercy. Root put two lefts to Gardner's jaw, but the blows were hardly land a feeble blow he clinched and refused to let go. Referee Hynds was forced to tear the men apart time and time again. Gardner resumed his rushing tactics and beat Root to the floor. He landed scores of short arm jabs, rights and lefts that brought a wild look into Root's eyes as he half realized that his first defeat was before him, that the championship was slipping from his grasp, and it only required a punch to end it all. How hard he tried by clinching to prevent the inevitable. It was fought and furious as Gardner landed fierce right uppercut to Root's jaw, sending him down for the count. Paying no attention to Root's feeble rights and lefts to face and jaw, Gardner pounded away, at times swinging wildly. Finally he sent a left to the champion's jaw and a terrific right uppercut to the solar plexus and the champion was gasping for breath and with his hands over his stomach he lay writhing in agony as the referee counted off the fatal ten seconds. The next moment a strong was thrown into the ring. The man who had successfully defended his title in 55 battles was carried to his corner, and the new champion rushed to him and cradled his hand, saying, "Root, old boy, you put up a wonderful fight."

Gardner was then carried to his dressing room on the shoulders of his many admirers.

SCORE. R. H. E. Chicago 5 9 3 Philadelphia 3 14 9 Batteries—Patterson, Platt and Sullivan; Plank and Schreck.

Boston, Aug. 18.—Today's game was called at the end of the eleventh inning on account of darkness, with the score a tie. Detroit would have won on Mullen's fine pitching but for poor support in the first inning. Attendance, 3,770.

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Washington, Aug. 18.—Cleveland won another extra inning game from Washington today by hitting Orth through-out. Attendance, 2,462.

SCORE. R. H. E. Washington 5 9 3 Cleveland 3 14 9 Batteries—Orth and Clarke; Bernhard and Wood.

Baltimore, Aug. 18.—The Baltimore American league team turned the tables on the St. Louis team this afternoon. Harper was batted out of the box in the first two innings, while Katooli allowed the visitors but one run, a gift. Attendance, 1,400.

SCORE. R. H. E. Baltimore 11 15 2 St. Louis 1 12 4

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